

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 030850Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1339

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJ: CIVAIR: JAPAN CHARTER QUOTA

1. EMBASSY HAS AGAIN APPROACHED JCAB RE 1975 CHARTER QUOTA FOR U.S. SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS. TOYO (DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIV) STATED THAT QUOTA FOR REST OF 1975 IS STILL UNDER STUDY AND HE HOPED TO HAVE AN ANSWER WITHIN NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID 1975 QUOTA MIGHT BE SET AT MAXIMUM OF 50 OR 55 FLIGHTS (INCLUDING 25 ANNOUNCED FOR FIRST HALF), WITH JAPAN-IRIGINATING TRAFFIC BEING LIMIED, AS USUAL, TO NOT MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL. HE ALSO SAID JCAB'S NEXT QUOTA ANNOUNCEMENT PROBABLY WOULD COVER ONLY THIRD QUARTER RATHER THAN LAST HALF OF 1975.

2. EMBOFF EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT JCAB'S PRACTICE OF SETTING QUARTERLY QUOTAS AND URGED THAT NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT COVER ENTIRE LAST HALF OF YEAR. HE ALSO RECALLED THAT EMBASSY, ON NUMBER OF PAST OCCASIONS, HAD STRONGLY URGED JCAB NOT TO REDUCE 1975 UQOTA BELOW LEVEL OF LAST FEW YEARS, AND RESTATED THAT WE CONTINUED TO HOPE FOR TOTAL QUOTA OF AT LEAST 70 FLIGHTS.

3. EMBOFF ALSO MENTIONED THAT WORLD AIRWAYS, WHICH HAD NOT OPERATED ANY QUOTA CHARTERS SO FAR IN 1975, WAS DEVELOPING A PROGRAM FOR LATTER PART OF YEAR. TOYA SAID WORLD HAD SUBMITTED A PROGRAM OF 32 DC-8

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ROUNDTrip FLIGHTS TO BE OPERATED BETWEEN TOKYO AND HONOLULU IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, WITH ENTIRE PROGRAM INVOLVING JAPAN-ORIGINATING TRAFFIC. HE SAID JCAB QTE IS NOT TAKING THIS PROGRAM SERIOUSLY UNQTE SINCE WORLD

IS FULLY AWARE OF POLICY LIMITING JAPAN-ORIGINATING FLIGHTS TO ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL QUOTA. HE ASSERTED IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THAT 1975 QUOTA IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD EXCEED 70 FLIGHTS, AND (AS INDICATED ABOVE) MIGHT BE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS; HENCE THERE NO POSSIBILITY THAT JCAB WILL APPROVE ALL OF WORLD'S 32 FLIGHTS. TOYA ADDED THAT HE HAD CAUTIONED WORLD'S TOKYO REP THAT JCAB IS CHECKING CAREFULLY INTO BONA FIDES OF AFFINITY GROUPS AND WOULD REJECT ANY NON-GENUINE GROUPS. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD NOTED THAT JCAB IS SCRUTINIZING CHARTER FARES MORE CLOSELY AND WOULD REJECT FLIGHTS IF THE FARE LEVEL IS EXCESSIVELY LOW.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT. WORLD UNDOUBTEDLY WILL SEEK USG ASSISTANCE IN GEPZING APPROVAL OF ITS TOKYO -HONOLULU CHARTERS. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT JCAB IS DETERMINED TO HOLD THE LINE ON JAPAN-ORIGINATING CHARTERS AND WE FRANKLY DOUBT THAT IT CAN BE EXHORTED TO CHANGE ITS STAND. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS WASHINGTON AGENCIES MIGHT HAVE AS TO HOW, IF AT ALL, WE CAN EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT WORLD ON THIS PROBLEM.
HODGSON

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